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| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/041,911 | MANNING ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | JONATHAN ML FOREMAN | 3736 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to Amendment After Final filed 8/21/08.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 2, 4-8, 10 - 15, 24 - 31, 33 - 38, 40 - 42, 44, 45, 50 and 51.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 20080930.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

/Max Hindenburg/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3736

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Paul Sherburne on 9/30/08.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 1 and 24 have been amended as shown.

1. (Currently Amended) A guide catheter, comprising:

an outer sheath comprising an open lumen, a pre-shaped distal end, a distal tip, a proximal end, and at least one longitudinally disposed pre-stress line extending from the proximal end to the distal tip of the outer sheath;

an inner sheath comprising an open lumen, the inner sheath disposed within the open lumen of the outer sheath, the inner sheath axially rotatable and longitudinally translatable relative to the outer sheath, a distal end of the inner sheath conforming to a shape of the outer sheath when the inner sheath is retracted, and the distal end of the inner sheath assuming a pre-formed shape different from the shape of the outer sheath when the distal end of the inner sheath is extended beyond the distal end of the outer sheath;

a steering tendon disposed along the outer sheath, a distal end of the steering tendon connected to the distal tip of the outer sheath;

a guide handle connected to the proximal end of the outer sheath, the guide handle comprising at least one longitudinally disposed pre-stress line aligned with the at least one longitudinally disposed pre-stressed line of the outer sheath, and at least two elongated separation grips positioned at the proximal end of the guide handle aligned substantially parallel to the at least one longitudinally disposed pre-stress line of the guide handle, the guide catheter configured such that separation of the guide handle into at least two sections along the at least one longitudinally disposed pre-stress line of the guide handle initiates separation of the outer sheath along the at least one pre-stress line of the outer sheath;

a steering mechanism comprising a lever pivotably disposed on the guide handle, the steering mechanism connected to a proximal end of the steering tendon and providing a pulling force on the steering tendon in response to pivoting of the lever to adjustably change a shape of the pre-shaped distal end of the outer sheath;

at least one pressure sensing device connected to the distal end of the inner sheath; and
at least one electrical conductor coupled to the at least one pressure sensing device,
the at least one conductor disposed within the inner sheath.

24. (Currently Amended) A guide catheter, comprising:

an outer sheath comprising an open lumen, a pre-shaped distal end, a distal tip, a proximal end, and at least one longitudinally disposed pre-stress line extending from the proximal end to the distal tip of the outer sheath;

an inner sheath comprising an open lumen configured to receive a payload, the inner sheath disposed within the open lumen of the outer sheath, the inner sheath rotatable and longitudinally displaceable relative to the outer sheath, a distal end of the inner sheath conforming to a shape of

the outer sheath when the inner sheath is retracted, and the distal end of the inner sheath assuming a pre-formed shape different from the shape of the outer sheath when the distal end of the inner sheath is extended beyond the distal end of the outer sheath;

a steering member disposed along the outer sheath, a distal end of the steering member connected to the distal tip of the outer sheath;

a guide handle connected to the proximal end of the outer sheath, the guide handle comprising at least one longitudinally disposed pre-stress line aligned with the at least one longitudinally disposed pre-stressed line of the outer sheath and at least two elongated separation grips positioned at the proximal end of the guide handle aligned substantially parallel to the at least one longitudinally disposed pre-stress line of the guide handle, the guide catheter configured such that separation of the guide handle into at least two sections along the at least one longitudinally disposed pre-stress line of the guide handle initiates separation of the outer sheath along the at least one pre-stress line of the outer sheath;

a steering mechanism comprising a lever pivotably disposed on the guide handle, the steering mechanism connected to a proximal end of the steering tendon and from which a pulling force is developed on the steering tendon in response to pivoting of the lever to adjustably change a shape of the pre-shaped distal end of the outer sheath;

at least one pressure sensing device connected to the pre-shaped distal end of the outer sheath; and

at least one electrical conductor coupled to the at least one pressure sensing device, the at least one conductor disposed within the outer sheath.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JONATHAN ML FOREMAN whose telephone number is (571)272-4724. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Max Hindenburg can be reached on (571)272-4726. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/J. M. F./
Examiner, Art Unit 3736

/Max Hindenburg/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3736